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SUBSCRIPTIONS ...

Ordinary members £ 6 per annum; student/OAP members £ 3 per annum;
corporate members £ 12 per annum ... ARE YOU FULLY PAID UP? If not,
please send your details / cheques to one of the addresses above!

THE BULLETIN ...

Bulletin 23 is published at last ... 38 pages, decently printed,
with a far higher standard of figures, maps, and plans than we have been
used to, and a smart cover. Members who attended the Day Conference at
the Royal School of Mines on 28 March will have collected their copies
(or had them collected for them) then; others should find theirs en-
closed with this mailing. Our warmest thanks to Sylvia Beamon (editor),
and to Chris Bayley (illustrations) and Nick Catford (pasting-up,
negotiating printing, etc.)

For the benefit of non-members, details of contents and availability
are being circulated ... Bulletin 23 costs £ 2.50 per copy by post.

THE DAY CONFERENCE ...

We enjoyed four excellent lectures at the Royal School of Mines ...
three of them by members (Roger Morgan, Nick Catford, and Rod Le Gear)
and one by Prof. C.T. Shaw (of the RSM.) Our thanks to Martin Black
for his valuable assistance (with two of his students) with the
practical arrangements, and to Barbara and Malcolm Tadd for getting all
the details right. There was time, this time, for all the 'brief
communications' on offer ... Peter Burgess' interim report on some
important discoveries and continuing research in connection with the
Godstone Hill quarries' plateways, and Sylvia Beamon and Phil Marshall's
slides from the Bradford on Avon Study Weekend.

BULLETIN BACK NUMBERS ... CORRECTION to NEWSLETTER 10 ...

The prices shown for back numbers of the Bulletin and Newsletter shown
in Newsletter 10 (page 1) are correct, except that Bulletins 13 - 22
only are 70p each (88p incl. postage and packing); as noted above,
Bulletin 23 is £ 2 per copy (£ 2.50 inclusive of postage and packing) ...
whilst stocks last ... several issues are or are about to be out of
print and we do not propose to reprint the early issues.

Complete your set now ... orders to Barbara Tadd at South Nutfield.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ...

As Roger Morgan may be moving from his present Kensington address in
the next month or so, please send your subscriptions &c via one of the
addresses above for the time being.

FURTHER GRANT AID and AWARD for EAST SURREY QUARRIES SURVEY ...

Just who is wearing which hat, and when, in east Surrey is never easy to decide, as Chris Bayley, Peter Burgess, Nick Catford, and Paul Sowan are all members of SB, the Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society (Industrial Studies Section) and Unit 2 Cave Research & Exploration. Under one guise or another, the east Surrey quarries survey has recently been awarded grant aid by the Surrey Archaeological Society's Excavations Committee ... £ 120 to be devoted to photographic survey costs (£ 100) and Museum Documentation Association (MDA) record cards.

Additionally, a display of Chris Bayley's surveying work and Nick Catford's photographs, mounted by CNHSS at the SAS Excavations Committee's annual symposium was awarded first prize (£ 50) in the Margary Award; and a series of lectures and guided tours of east Surrey underground sites by Paul Sowan and Unit 2 for the Reigate Adult Education Institute has yielded further income, from which new surveying tapes have been purchased ... those originally purchased with the first Lloyds Bank award are now (16,000 km or so of tunnel surveying later) practically worn out!

1987 STUDY WEEKEND ...

The date and location are now finally confirmed ... as already provisionally announced (Newsletter 10) it is to be Exeter and the Dartmoor area ... 23rd and 24th May (probably spilling over to make a long weekend, taking advantage of the bank holiday.) Further details enclosed with this mailing ... or from Malcolm Tadd.

PROFESSOR GLYN DANIEL ... FORMER PRESIDENT ...

For a period during our earlier years, when we were largely based on Cambridge and Royston, we had a President ... Professor Glyn Daniel. He died on 13 December 1986, having been, at various times, a Fellow of St. John's (Cambridge) 1938 - 86, Steward (1946 - 55) and Disney Professor of Archaeology (1974 - 81.) Obituaries appeared in the Guardian (16th December) and The Times (15th December.)

BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY ... MUSEUM ENTRANCE CHARGES ...

The BGS London Information Office is situated on the ground floor of the Geological Museum (now part of the Natural History Museum) in South Kensington ... at the rear of the building. With the introduction of museum entrance charges on 1 April 1987, arrangements have been made for visitors to the Information Office to be admitted without payment provided each visitor collects a Visitor's pass at the main Museum entrance. Visitors will be requested to go directly to the Information Office ... the pass will not give free access to the Museum. On completing their business in the Information Office visitors will hand in the pass at the front door before leaving the Museum. Further information about these arrangements and the facilities and services available from the Information Office may be obtained by post or telephone ...

British Geological Survey
London Information Office, c/o Geological Museum
Exhibition Road
LONDON SW7 2DE

Visitors 10.00 - 17.00, Mondays - Fridays 01 - 589 - 3444 xtn 256/7

AUTUMN DAY CONFERENCE ... CAMBRIDGE ... Saturday 17th October

~~Please note the date ... and offer a lecture / brief communication!~~

MORE ABOUT GASES AND WELLS ...

The following note relative to the formation of noxious gases in the beds of the Tertiary strata, may be interesting. Dr. Mitchell, in the transactions of the Geological Society of London, in his description of the strata passed through in sinking a well at Beaumont Green, near Ware in Hertfordshire states (17th May 1837), that when the well was sunk the weather was dry, but after a change to very wet weather, a stratum of blue sand with black pebbles 15 feet thick, began to emit foul air, by which one of the well diggers was suffocated in descending; a hawk flying over the well fell into it, and a similar fate befel smaller birds, wasps, bees, and flies. On closing up the mouth of the well, with the exception of an orifice an inch in diameter, so powerful was the force of the issuing current of foul air, that it raised a weight of 12 ounces of lead. In fine weather there was on the contrary a strong draught down into the well. The whole of the neighbouring district to the extent of four miles, is called by the well diggers foul country.

Dr. Mitchell, in another paper, (November 6, 1839) refers to other instances of the escape of sulphuretted hydrogen from sand, viz., at Ash near Farnham, where in a well dug in sand to the depth of 36 feet, one of the workmen on descending was instantly suffocated; and in wells at Maiden Lane, Battle Bridge, and Applebury near Cheshunt, fatal effects have resulted from the accumulation of this gas, which is much increased after long continued rain. The noxious gas in the Weald of Kent and Sussex, is stated to be sulphuretted hydrogen.

"Carburetted hydrogen," he says, "has seldom inflamed in wells, but in making the Thames Tunnel it has sometimes issued in such abundance as to explode by the lights, and scorch the workmen ...

The strata of the plastic clay through which this part of the tunnel was formed, contained shells lignite and iron pyrites."

from N. Arnott & T. Page, Reports ... on an inquiry ... relative to the prevalence of disease at Croydon ... 1853, p. 25.

THOMAS WALKER'S "SEVERN TUNNEL" REPRINTED ...

Some copies of the reprint of Thomas Walker's "Severn Tunnel" of 1891 are held in stock and available from the address below at £10 each ...

Avon-Anglia Publications & Services
Annesley House
21 Southside
WESTON super MARE
Avon BS23 2QU

HAVE WE FOUND THE ANSWER TO "JAWS" AND "CLAWS" AT GODSTONE ... ?

During a recent surveying visit to the Godstone quarries, a curious lump in the otherwise flat roofstone was noticed. Closer inspection revealed what appear to be the remains of a large vertebrate, some four metres long, visible in the quarry ceiling on either side of a roof support pillar of unworked stone. Arrangements are being made to take British Museum (Natural History) staff to the site, although as the location is accessible only via several roof-falls, and adjacent to another, extraction would be a mammoth (or dinosaur?) task!

MET DUBBEL KRIJGT GESCHREVEN? ...

This report on the conservation of St. Pietersberg, near Maastricht, in relation to the opencast cement-works pits appeared last year. It deals with the use and abuse of the 'mountain' in the widest terms ... the underground heritage, recreational, educational, and wildlife conservation and industrial exploitation of the surface, etc.

Natuurhistorisch Genootschap in Limburg, Met dubbel krijgt geschreven? Visie op de toekomst van de Sint Pietersberg. Natuurhistorisch Genootschap in Limburg, 29pp + 8 maps, 1986.

ANOTHER IRON MINE AT IRONBRIDGE ...

Some members will recall a brief visit to, and hurried exit from, an iron mine at the rear of 7 New Road, Ironbridge ... a mine notorious for its oxygen deficiency.

Another such working has recently been found, more or less opposite 8 St. Luke's Road ... the air was alright when this was visited on 21st March, but the rock stability left much to be desired (it was reminiscent, to your chairman, of the New Vein quarry in Furbeck!) and progress was barred after 70 metres or so by flood water which appeared to reach the roof of the inclined gallery after another 60 metres or so. This mine is scheduled to be permanently grilled in the hope that bats will make some use of it ... presumably near the entrance where oxygen levels can be expected to remain high enough!

BAT SURVEYS IN EAST SURREY ...

CNHSS / SB / Unit 2 have been working in liaison with the London Bat Group in east Surrey, assisting with access, guidance, and tackle for visits to record hibernating bats. Although some quarries had disappointingly few or no bats evidently in residence, others were well populated and one, not previously known to be used, has now been favoured by the animals. Bat skeletons are being retrieved from the Chaldon quarries and forwarded, with details, to the British Museum (Natural History) for identification and recording. One skeleton from this quarry has, oddly, turned out to be that of a bird!

THE LIGHTWATER VALLEY RAT RIDE ...

A small fortune is being offered for big rats at the Lightwater Valley fun park and visitor farm near Ripon. The right specimens could be worth £ 250 each says the park manager, Mr. Roy Walkley, who needs them to add the finishing touches to a terrifying new £ ½m ride.

"We can get hold of no end of ordinary rats, but they won't do ... we need super-rats, weighing around 1,000 grams ..."

The giant rats would be stuffed and strategically mounted to frighten visitors who dare to try out the subterranean, spine-chilling Rat Ride, which is due to open in late spring. "We have thought of using fibre-glass rats, but we need the real thing for authenticity ..."

Even without the rats the ride sounds exciting. Just to get them visitors will have to descend 50 feet through specially constructed sewer pipes. The ride itself will transport them, at breakneck speed, for over 1,000 feet and includes vertical drops of almost 40 feet.

More than 100,000 tonnes of rock have been removed to create the ride, which Mr. Walkley confidently states is the only one of its kind in the world ...

TUNNELS UNDER THE THAMES ... WITHIN THE GREATER LONDON AREA ...

A Tunnels through which the public may travel

Thames Tunnel	1843 pedestrian
	1869 East London Railway
	1884 Metropolitan Railway
Waterloo & City Railway (2)	1898
Blackwall road tunnel (1st)	1897
Greenwich Footway	1903
Northern Line Railway (2)	1900
Bakerloo Line Railway (2)	1906
Rotherhithe Road	1908
Woolwich Footway	1912
Northern Line Railway (2)	1926
Blackwall Road tunnel (2nd)	1967
Victoria Line Railway (2)	1971

(16 tunnels)

B Tunnels through which the public have travelled

Tower Subway	1870 pedestrian
	c. 1894 London Hydraulic Power Co.
	now Thames Water Authority
City & South London Railway (2)	1890 (closed 1900)

(3 tunnels)

C Service tunnels (excluding cooling water &c which do not cross the full width)

Richmond	1914 Metropolitan Water Board
Barking Cable Tunnel	1925
Battersea Cable Tunnel	1933
Battersea - Pimlico	1951 (hot water for district heating)
Fulham - Barnes	1960 Metropolitan Water Board
Richmond - Twickenham	1960 Metropolitan Water Board
Thames Barrier (2)	1982
Deptford Cable	?
Post Office Cable (2)	? (one between Southwark and Blackfriars Bridges; one between Hungerford and Waterloo Bridges)

(11 tunnels)

There may be quite a few more! Members are asked if they are able to add to or supplement the details in this list!

How long would it take to traverse all currently public tunnels, once each? How quickly could it be done? !

HERITAGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT ...

The British Rail Property Board (selling off BR land etc) is where the money is ... and where help with historical enquiries seems most likely to be forthcoming (the civil engineers are too busy!) The Board has just published a glossy coloured illustrated booklet featuring its

good stewardship of outstanding (and other) railway structures. Tunnels are featured in pages 6 - 7, where there are illustrations of disused tunnel portals ...

Hain Tunnel nr. Sandling Junction (protected nature conservation area ... 'used to see trains on the Hythe branch line, closed 1951)

Woodhead Tunnels ('High in the Pennines ... When the first tunnels closed in the 1950s they were wuickly utilised by the CEEB as an all weather and environmentally acceptable cable route.')

Devizes Tunnel ('The Wiltshire town ... lost its rail services in 1966 leaving the tunnel redundant. Nowadays the walls ring not to the sound of trains but the crack of gunfire in this ideally situated rifle range.')

Copies of this and other BPPB publications can be obtained from the Manager, Public Affairs, British Rail Property Board, 274/290 Bishopsgate, LONDON EC2M 4XQ (01-248-5444)

Heritage and the Environment (special edition of Property Board News), 28 pp, 1986.

UNDERGROUND SITES AS ANCIENT MONUMENTS or SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST ...

Can members add to this list of underground sites afforded some sort of official recognition as deserving conservation?

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

Caves behind Kennings Garage, Castle Boulevard, Nottingham
8 Castle Gate, Nottingham
Nottingham Castle (tunnel)
Broad Marsh Caves, Nottingham
3 - 7 Middle Pavement, Nottingham (?)
Royston Cave, Hertfordshire

SSSIs

Wren's Nest limestone mines, Dudley
Deneholes, Grays, Essex

How complete is this list? Does it really reflect the distribution of underground structures worthy of conservation? Are we all trying hard enough in our own areas to see that the most important sites are protected or recognised?

MUSEUM PLAN FOR BUNKER ... DOVER CASTLE ...

A cavernous fortress, burrowed into the white cliffs of Dover and from which Sir Winston Churchill gave some of the most decisive orders of the Second World War, is likely to become one of Britain's most important war museums. Public opening of the wartime bunker beneath Dover Castle and the cliff-face vantage point from which Sir Winston watched heavy artillery pounding German positions across the Channel is expected in time for the fiftietch anniversary of the Battle of Britain in 1990.

The wartime complex, with two-and-a-half miles of underground corridors, became one of the regional seats of government for the South-east and remained a classified location until late last year when the Ministry of Defence put it in the hands of English Heritage ...

The Times, 21 February 1987

LES MOULINS du COL- des- ROCHES ...

We have received a booklet describing a most intriguing Swiss site, in which a water mill appears to have been integrated with a series of natural caves, the mill's functioning extending in part into the underground areas.

Les Moulins du Col-des- Roches. Histoire et Restauration

Brochure realisee par la Confrerie des Meuniers du Col-des-Roches en mars 1979. 20pp (illustrations, plans, sections, etc)

INVENTORY OF ARTIFICIAL UNDERGROUND SITES IN BELGIUM ...

Our linked society in Belgium, SOBERES, has published a list of man-made underground sites in that country, with helpful location maps. Sites are classified by type or purpose, and information is tabulated concerning plans, descriptions, illustrations, history etc.

C. Kahn, L'inventaire des sites souterrains artificiels de Belgique - Situation, SOBERES Bull. d'Information 14, 1 - 15, 1986.

SUBTERRANEA ... BULLETIN de la SOCIETE FRANCAISE d'Etude des SOUTERRAINS ...

The latest issue of our linked French society contains articles as follows ...

Les souterrains annulaires du centre de la France, Maurice Franc,
3 - 8 with short English summary
Megalithes et souterrains, Max Poitel, 9 - 12
Le souterrain de la rue du Guichet a Pont sur Yonne, J.C. Pais et al,
13 - 20 incl. sections, figures of pottery, etc
Grotte naturelle amenee, de la Basse- Cheviere, J.M. Machefert et
al, 21 - 24 incl. photographs and plan
Le culte des Sept- Dormants, J.L. Camuset, 25 - 28
Le souterrain des Moreaux a Mullet, en Charente, J. Epardeau,
31 - 32

Subterranea 61 (March 1987)

KARSTOMANIA BULLETIN N° 0 ...

Joe Epardeau writes, enclosing a copy of the above, requesting an exchange of publications. Karstomania Bulletin 0, of 18 pages including illustrations, deal partly or exclusively with natural caves, although the writer expresses an interest in man-made structures as well as natural ones. Joe Epardeau is at 89 Rue Henry Bellamy, 16000 ANGOULEME, France.

MARBLE MINED FOR CATHEDRAL ...

Marble has been mined at the Isle of Purbeck ... for the first time in generations, to help with repairs to Lincoln Cathedral. The stone was needed to repair window surrounds at the cathedral. Lengthy negotiations took place before permission was given for the stone to be removed.

The Times, 18 November 1986

A TASTE OF BATTLE AT THE BUNKER ...

Mr. Les Quigley retreated into a bunker mentality yesterday after being refused planning permission for his restaurant. He reopened for business at the wartime Bunker at Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire, by serving meals to anyone who rented office space, for which he does have

planning permission. Customers now pay £5 to rent "office space" in the evening, and £3 at lunchtimes. Prices for their meals are reduced accordingly ...

The entrance to the Bunker, in the cellars of Orbhams Hall, is sand-bagged. Customers report to the Ops Room, where their names are taken and they are given a rank ...

Guardian, 2 April 1986

A BETTER BUNKER?

HMS Warrior, the Fleet headquarters at Northwood, Middlesex, has "a new underground area together with a diesel generator building and associated interior and exterior utilities," Roger Freeman, the Under Secretary for the Armed Forces, told Paddy Ashdown, Liberal MP for Yeovil.

The Independent, 22 October 1986

COUNCIL MUST PAY RATES ON BUNKER ...

A council cannot escape paying rates on its civil defence bunker, a local valuation panel has ruled. The Isle of Wight County Council claimed that its underground centre should come under the legislation which gives rate exemption to air raid shelters built during the war.

The Guardian, 18 June 1986

BALTIC FIXED LINK GETS GO - AHEAD ...

Danish and Swedish government and local authority officials announced yesterday that they would meet in August to discuss the construction of a fixed tunnel and bridge link across the Baltic Straits between the two countries. ... one of the biggest traffic projects ever contemplated in Northern Europe. It would link Denmark's two largest islands - Zealand, on which Copenhagen stands, and Funen, at the mouth of the Baltic.

Similar in magnitude to the Channel Tunnel project ... the possibility of spanning the 18-mile-wide Great Belt waterway has been discussed since the 1850s. According to the agreement, work is to start next year on a state-financed rail tunnel linking the port of Korsøer, West Zealand, to the mid-Belt islet of Sprogø, which will, in turn, be connected to Nyborg on Funen by a railway bridge. The project is to be completed by 1992 and supplemented later by a similar second phase, comprising a parallel combined bridge and tunnel link for motor vehicles, due for completion in 1996 ...

The agreement paves the way for the planning of a network of international links in the Danish - Swedish - West German corner of the Baltic. These are a railway tunnel under the narrows of the Baltic Sound between Elsinore and Helsingborg in Sweden; a tunnel/bridge between Copenhagen and Malmö, Sweden, and a bridge between the Danish port of Rødby on the island of Lolland and Puttgarden, West Germany.

The Times, 17 June 1986

£ 400,000 FACELIFT FOR AN OLD CRONE ...

Old Mother Shipton's cave, where the soothsaying crone is reputed to have been born in 1488, has been bought by a modern magician ... Paul Daniels ... ripe for development as a leisure complex ...

The Guardian, 17 June 1986

HILDA'S HOLE LOT OF TROUBLE ...

A 30 foot deep hole which appeared in a lawn in Valley Road, Gillingham Kent, is reported in Chatham Rochester and Gillingham Evening News, 6 October 1986, p. 1.

BANG GOES 75 YEARS ...

There is an article on the Health & Safety Executive's Fuxton Research Laboratories in New Civil Engineer 706(11 September 1986), 26 - 27.

HEALTHIER WAY OF LIFE UNDERGROUND ...

A remote area of north-west China is the home for a unique group of people who are known as the cave dwellers of Shanxi. They have been the subject of an extensive study which shows that their underground life-style is apparently healthier than those of urban and rural communities more exposed to the elements. ...

Research on the cave dwellers started 50 years ago ...

The people of Shanxi seem to have chosen an underground home that possesses the optimum environment in terms of stability of temperature and relative humidity. ...

The best conditions exist when the temperature is in the range of 10°C to 22°C and relative humidity is between 30 and 75 per cent. The atmosphere of the Shanxi cave dwellings is within those ranges. ...

The Times, 9 December 1986

ORDER WON FOR PALACE BUNKER ...

Mr. Dan Dunton, a painter, of Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, has won an order to decorate 12 stretched-fabric ceilings for King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. The ceilings ... are to be used in the nuclear bunker.

The Times, 24 November 1986

GEM THEFT ...

Thieves dug their way through sewer pipes to an underground vault of a jewellery store and stole about £ 265,000 worth of jewels. (Naples)

The Times, 30 December 1986

QUITE A STINK OVER THWARTED ROBBERY ...

A team of Italian robbers spent six weekends burrowing through the Rome sewerage system, towards the city's central post office strong room, only to be arrested centimetres from their goal early yesterday morning.

Five of the gang of six were arrested when police pounced on them as they surfaced from manholes in the city centre, covered in stinking slime. One man ... popped up from an access hole near the river Tiber just before dawn, covered in excreta and wearing only underpants. He told the chief of investigating police: "I suffer from insomnia. I was getting a breath of air before going back to bed." ...

The team had dug a five-metre tunnel, 80 centimetres in diameter, from a sewer artery towards the fortified wall of the underground store room ... The men were excavating the last few centimetres of soil, and had drills ready to start work on the store room wall, when people walking the streets above reported hearing the sound of clanging metal from below. A special "subterranean squad" of the Carabinieri went underground to find Demetrio Tolli, aged 53, still digging away. Tolli told them that he was a lone operator and had no accomplices. But the six pairs of rubber boots beside him, and the immense amount of gear, implied that he was not alone ...

The Guardian, 28 July 1986

METALLIFEROUS MINING BIBLIOGRAPHY

Roger Burt, at the University of Exeter (Dept. of Economic History), is producing for publication a bibliography of British metalliferous mining history. A large number of references to published books and articles, and to higher degree theses, are now held on computer. The scope of this project appears to be crystallizing as it goes along ... virtually all items in the Northern Mine Research Society journal and in that of the Peak District Mines Historical Society, for example, are included ... including such non-metalliferous sites as a chert mine! However, we understand it is not intended to include items relating to mined limestone even though this very often formed an integral part of the iron-mining and smelting industries; likewise coal mines; and, indeed, even iron mines themselves may be under-represented. Certainly there is no intention, in the present exercise, to include underground quarries for dimension stone, or mines (subterranean) for miscellaneous minerals such as chalk, fullers earth, clay, sand, stone aggregate, etc. It seems, therefore, that the scope of the resulting publication may be restricted to the mining of (? non-ferrous) metalliferous ores? But if the processing of magnesium sources is included, why not chalk ... limestone ... and so forth! Anyone in a position to help with the less obvious books and journal articles is invited to contact Roger, who can supply details of what is already searched, and even a massive print-out of what is already 'on disc' (or tape, or whatever the Exeter computer uses!)

Contact: Dr. R. Burt, Dept. Economic History, Amory Building,
Rennes Drive, EXETER, Devon EX4 4RJ.

TOTLEY AND THE TUNNEL

Until recently, detailed studies of the construction and operation of individual tunnels was a rather neglected area. The example set by Frederick Walter Simms' Practical Tunnelling of 1844 wasn't really followed ... especially for some of the less successful tunnels. Often we have to resort to the geological literature, for example, for an insight into some of the civil engineers' mistakes!

However, Walker's Severn Tunnel book has recently been reprinted, and Cliff Williams' account of the driving of the Clay Cross Tunnel provided a welcome detailed study. Now we have a 64 page illustrated booklet, well produced, on the Topley Tunnel on the line from Sheffield through to Castleton (Hope), Edale, and Manchester.

Brian Edwards, Topley and the Tunnel, Sheffield: Shape Design Shop, 65pp, published 1985, reprinted 1986. £ 3.95 from Yorkshire Dales Railway, Embsay Station, SKIPTON, North Yorks BD23 6AX.

'This tunnel is the biggest bore in the railway world and it is not even surpassed by any in the Sheffield City Council Chamber or the House of Commons' ... Bradbury in Over the Dore & Chinley Railway, 1896

'I regret that the above statement can no longer be guaranteed to be true', ... Brian Edwards, 1985!

THE COAL MINES OF NEW MILLS

New Mills is the curious place where you change trains (from New Mills Newtown to New Mills Central (it isn't!) or vice versa if you are 'doing' the more scenic railways of Derbyshire. At first sight it is an unremarkable town ... until, quite by chance, you look over a parapet and find it is built in three parts with an enormous Y-shaped gorge separating them! If you succeed in finding your way down into this chasm, you are in a world

of grass and trees, rushing waters and abandoned mills, and soaring railway and road viaducts! An amazing place! New Mills has an enterprising Local History Society, whose series of New Mills History Notes now extends to 15 titles, of which the 15th is of subterranean interest ...

Derek Drumhead, The coal mines of New Mills, New Mills Local History Society: New Mills History Notes 15: 57pp, 1987. £ 1.95 from Yorkshire Dales Railway (see previous item for address.)

MINES AND MINERALS OF THE OCHILS

The Ochil hills, for those vague about Scottish geography, lie to the west of Dollar, in (former) Clackmannanshire. This booklet contains details of mines for copper, silver, cobalt and lead ...

D.M. Dickie & C.W. Forster (eds), Mines and minerals of the Ochils, 2nd edn., Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society, 43pp., 1986 ... £ 1.35 from the Yorkshire Dales Railway ... see previous two entries for details ... by now you may have decided it is well worthwhile being on the YDR mailing list / book supply service ... you will certainly find out about publications you might otherwise never have heard of!)

ELEVEN MILLION TONS OF HERITAGE. SCOTLAND'S INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE NEEDS YOU ...

Proposals, inter alia, to reopen the Birkhill fireclay mine to the public are detailed ...

Industrial Heritage 4(4), 14 - 15, 1986. From YDR ...!

THE R.A.C.S. CHALK MINE AND THE BUILDING OF THE DOSTALL ESTATE ...

Bob Le Gear has produced a most interesting history of this short-lived North Kent chalk mine, developed and worked by the Royal Arsenal Cooperative Society near Abbey Wood ...

Bob Le Gear, The R.A.C.S. chalk mine and the building of the Dostall Estate, Kent Underground Research Group: 19pp, 1987.

A refreshing change to have a bit of mining history that includes all the important non-subterranean details and context! Details from Bob at 18 Bladindon Drive, BEXLEY, Kent DA5 3BP. Its about £ 1, postage extra?

UNDERGROUND DISPOSAL AT HERFA - NEURODE

A chapter on disposal, within rock-salt beds in Germany, of water-soluble hazardous wastes ...

Gunnar Johnsson, Underground disposal at Herfa - Neurode, in J.P. Lehman (edr) Hazardous Waste Disposal, 1983, pp. 295 - 313. NATO Scientific Publications / Plenum Press.

MINING AT WIELICZKA ...

Country Life 181(5), 114 - 116 (1987) contains an illustrated article on the salt mines at Wieliczka near Krakow, Poland.

NEWINGTON HOUSE, OXFORDSHIRE ...

On Saturday 25 April your Chairman, your Secretary, your Secretary's wife, Peter Burgess, and others, travelled to Newington House in Oxfordshire to examine some ancient drainage and other tunnels, in response to an invitation extended at the last Symposium at the Royal School of Mines. On reaching the imposing stately home, we were welcomed and shown in through the front door ... and it was at about this time that we realised most of the building is virtually derelict! The owner told us of his plans (partially implemented already) to restore the building to its former glory ... this to include the removal of the top floor and its replacement by a replica of its original (and undoubtedly more attractive) original roof. The brochures describing the British Heritage Research Trust proved not to be so much to do with the restoration of old buildings, though, as the establishment of a data centre, with satellite links and latest computer technology, for storing on disc and transmitting superbly good images of rare books and unique and important manuscripts. Work on this project is going on side by side with work on restoring the building. Ultimately, the idea is to house the computer equipment and so forth in a concrete cell underneath the foundations of the restored house.

Eventually, however, our attention turned to our reason for being there ... the drains. It appears that an approximately rectangular enclosure was excavated and drained, with a man-negotiable drain all round the perimeter, in advance of the construction of the house. There are two long additional drains leading away to the nearby river. As the whole site is on deep clay, and the house has been overloaded with an additional floor, it is hardly surprising that in places the drains have become distorted ... the brick sides bulging inwards, and the brick invert heaving upwards. The tunnels are generally 1 metre high, and 0.55 metres wide at their widest, at invert level. In places, there is up to 10 cm of not-too-smelly water!

Peter Burgess and Paul Sowan spent most of the afternoon down there, and attempted a detailed survey in exceptionally cramped and wet conditions. Nick Catford came to the conclusion that to make a photographic record a team of small helpers ... children ... would be needed! Your Chairman offered to attempt to recruit such a team! How the survey turns out remains to be seen. But the day brought back happy memories of a similar excursion to Canterbury! And, on the way home, one member of the party suddenly had the thought that this was a strange way to spend one's birthday!

St. SAVIOURS TUNNEL UNDERGROUND COMPLEX, GUERNSEY ...

Information has recently reached us of this underground site 'built during the occupation of Guernsey' and now open 7 days a week, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

'The tunnel is 80 feet deep in parts and presents a mind-boggling feat of engineering. Its past is steeped in tales of piles of abandoned equipment and the fate of the Polish prisoners of war who were employed to carry out the backbreaking work ...'

Occupation relics, including gas masks, German helmets, weapon parts, field kitchens have been recovered and put on display.

THE GERMAN MILITARY UNDERGROUND HOSPITAL and AMMUNITION STORE ...

Another Channel Islands WW II occupation site now open to the public ... at La Vassalerie, St. Andrew's, Guernsey ... 1.25 miles of underground corridors and rooms can be visited ... although the hospital was actually in use for only six weeks! It took 3½ years to build.